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May 20, 2010 TIME SENSTIVE

TO: District Superintendents

Charter School Leaders

FROM: Willa Spicer

Deputy Commissioner

DISTRIBUTE TO: District Board of Education Presidents

Charter School Board of Trustees Presidents

Teachers' Union Presidents

SUBJECT: Race to the Top Round 2 Application – IMPORTANT NEWS

Thanks to those of you who have already submitted your MOU to the Department; we appreciate your support as we partner to provide the best education for the children of New Jersey. For those who are still considering whether to sign an MOU, please note the following:

If New Jersey wins \$400 million, NJDOE will offer a minimum of \$100,000 to ALL districts that sign the MOU, in addition to the funds going directly to Title I districts. (These monies will come from the state's portion of the grant, as necessary.)

After the grant money is awarded, committees of stakeholders will meet for at least a year to build a teacher evaluation. Districts are free to withdraw if they cannot participate after the process concludes. But only districts that join the application from the beginning will be eligible for the funds.

If you need a copy of the MOU, instructions for completing it or information about Race to the Top Round 2, please go to our website:

http://www.state.nj.us/education/arra/grants/rttt/round2/index.html